

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00650 121715Z
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S E C R E T REYKJAVIK 0650

FOR PM AND EUR ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, NATO, IC
SUBJECT: NORTHERN FLANK PLAN

REF: STATE 102676

1. STUDY RECEIVED MAY 9. COMMENTS KEYED TO APPROPRIATE
PAGES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PAGE 13

MENTION SHOULD BE MADE THAT THE EXISTENCE OF THE KEFLAVIK
NATO BASE SERVES AS A DETERRENT IN ADDITION TO THE PRESENCE
OF THE U.S. ATLANTIC FLEET. THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE COULD ALSO
BE ADDED AFTER THE FIRST SENTENCE ON THE PAGE: "SOVIET
VISIBILITY IN THE FORM OF PATROLS OR EXERCISES HAS GENERALLY
BEEN COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AS FAR AS INTIMIDATING ICELAND IS
CONCERNED". IN ADDITION, SINCE THERE IS NO COMMUNIST PARTY PER
SE IN ICELAND THE SECOND SENTENCE SHOULD BE CHANGED TO READ
"... THROUGH THE PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE, SUCCESSOR TO THE ICELANDIC
COMMUNIST PARTY, MAY BE ..."

PAGE 21:

REMOVE "SIGNIFICANT" FROM LINE 7, SINCE THE EFFICACY OF THE
ANTI-BASE MOVEMENT HAS DIMINISHED SOMWHAT RECENTLY.

PAGE 30:

ADD AS A NEW LAST SENTENCE ON THE PAGE: WHILE CRITICS OF ICELAND'S
SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO HAVE BECOME LESS VOCAL SINCE THE

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CONCLUSION OF THE COD WAR, THE ISSUE OF A FOREIGN MILITARY PRE-
SENCE IN ICELAND COULD BE REVIVED AT ANY TIME WITHIN THIS
BASICALLY XENOPHOBIC SOCIETY.

PAGE 51:

THE LAST PARAGRAPH MENTIONS THE SMALL USAF POLICE
FORCE AT THE BASE BUT MAKES NOT MENTION OF THE DETACH-
MENT OF OVER 100 U.S. MARINES STATIONED THERE.

PAGE 64:

WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS WORTH MENTIONING EITHER ON THIS PAGE OR ELSEWHERE IN THE REPORT (PERHAPS ON PAGE 21) THE FACT THAT THE THREAT TO THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE U.S. BASE AT KEFLAVIK IS SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER THAN ANY POTENTIAL THREAT TO ICELAND'S CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. A LARGE NUMBER OF ICELANDERS WHO ARE OPPOSED TO THE PRESENCE OF THE BASE STILL SUPPORT THEIR COUNTRY'S CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN NATO.

PAGE 70:

SINCE IT IS HIGHLY IMPROBABLY THAT ICELAND WOULD AGREE TO THE CREATION OF ITS OWN MILITARY FORCE (ICELAND HAS ABSOLUTELY NO MILITARY TRADITION AND HAS NEVER HAD AN INDIGENOUS MILITARY FORCE), LINES 7 AND 8 SHOULD BE REVISED TO READ: IN THE CASE OF ICELAND, THIS MIGHT MEAN SEEKING TO PERSUADE THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE A ROLE IN PROVIDING FOR ICELAND'S OWN DEFENSE THROUGH EXPANDED USE OF THE COAST GUARD AND POSSIBLY CERTAIN CIVIL DEFENSE ACTIVITIES.

PAGE 73:

IN PLACE OF THE LAST SENTENCE THE FOLLOWING COULD BE STATED: THE US AND NATO MIGHT SEEK GREATER ICELANDIC INVOLVEMENT IN ITS OWN DEFENSE. THIS MIGHT MEAN PARTICIPATING IN SOME OF THE MILITARY-RELATED ACTIVITIES OF THE ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE, INCREASING TRAINING OF AND EXPANDING THE COAST GUARD, AND DEVELOPING A HIGHER LEVEL OF MILITARY EXPERTISE BY PARTICIPATING IN SPECIALIZED TRAINING, PERHAPS AT US OR OTHER NATO MILITARY ACADEMIES OR WAR COLLEGES. SINCE IT IS EXCEEDINGLY UNLIKELY THAT ICELAND WOULD BE WILLING TO CREATE AN INDIGENOUS MILITARY FORCE,
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OTHER ACTIONS WHICH ASSIST ICELAND TO PLAY A ROLE IN ITS OWN DEFENSE SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED AS APPROPRIATE.

PAGE 77:

AT THE END OF THE THIRD PARAGRAPH, PLEASE ADD: "RECENT UPGRADING OF EQUIPMENT HAS EVEN HAD A POSITIVE POLITICAL EFFECT IN ICELAND. ICELANDERS WHO SUPPORT THE PRESENCE OF THE BASE BELIEVE THAT IT SHOULD HAVE MODERN AND UP-TO-DATE EQUIPMENT TO CARRY OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES. FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS COULD THEREFORE SERVE BOTH U.S. MILITARY AND POLITICAL OBJECTIVES." (HOWEVER, IT PROBABLY SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED AT SOME POINT THAT ANY IMPROVEMENTS WHICH INVOLVE A SUBSTANTIAL INCREMENT IN U.S. MILITARY AND/OR CIVILIAN PERSONNEL AT THE BASE COULD ENCOUNTER CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION UNLESS VERY CAREFULLY HANDLED. THE GOI SHOULD BE GIVEN AMPLE ADVANCE NOTICE AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON ANY SUCH INCREMENTS.)

2. COMMENT: ABOVE CHANGES ARE OFFERED AS GENERALLY MODEST REFINEMENTS TO WHAT WE CONSIDERED TO BE EXCELLENT OVERALL STUDY OF NORTHERN FLANK.

3. SINCE AMBASSADOR BLAKE DEPARTED FROM ICELAND MAY 4, HE HAD NEITHER THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE STUDY NOR TO SEE THE EMBASSY'S

COMMENTS. CHRISTENSEN

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